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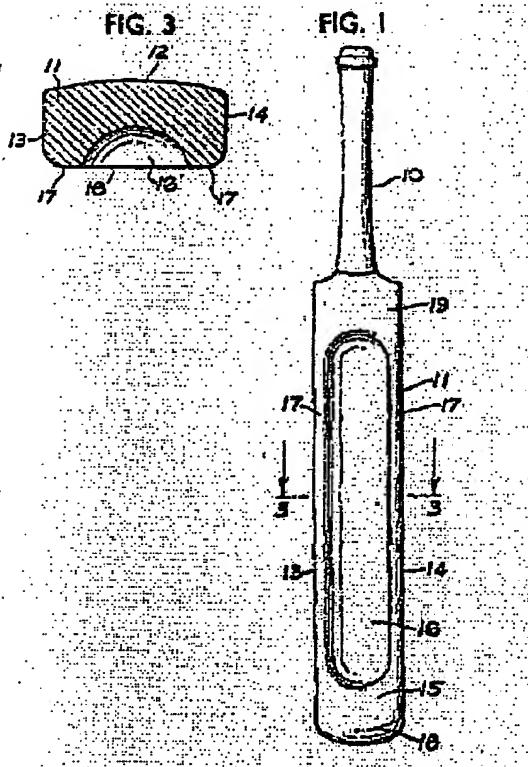
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**CRICKET BAT**

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**Inventor:**  
**Applicant:** WHEELER B J; GARNER A W B  
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**Application number:** GB19720030893 19720701  
**Priority number(s):** GB19720030893 19720701

[Report a data error here](#)**Abstract of GB1391120**

1391120 Sporting implements B J WHEELER and A W B GARNER 28 June 1973 [1 July 1972] 30893/72 Heading A6D A cricket bat comprising a handle 10 to which is connected a blade 11 having a front striking 12 surface and a rear surface 15 is characterised in that the rear surface is formed with one or more depressions 16 so disposed that the blade is of maximum thickness at or adjacent the periphery of the blade. As shown the rear surface 15 is recessed at 16 so as to create a rim there-around composed of side portions 17 and heel and toe portions 19 and 18 respectively. Strengthening ribs or cross members may be incorporated in the recess and weights e.g. of lead, may be used to supplement the weight distribution.

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## Description of GB1391120

**(54) CRICKET BAT**

(71) We, BARRIE JOHN WHEELER, a British Subject, of Middlefield Cottage,  
Great Shelford, Cambridge, and ARTHUR  
WINSTON BUCKTON GARNER, a South  
African Citizen, of c/o Middlefield Cottage,  
Great Shelford, Cambridge, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted  
to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the  
following statement:-

This invention relates to cricket bats and more particularly to the distribution of the weight and mass of such bats.

The shape of cricket bats has not altered significantly for many years. One substantially constant feature has been the shape of the rear surface of the blade of the bat. This has usually been formed so that there is a maximum concentration of weight and mass behind a spot about six inches from the lower end or toe of the blade of the bat, along the plane of symmetry of the bat.

This spot is the "Sweet Spot" or centroid of the bat, that is to say the optimum location for bat/ball contact to ensure the most effective hit in terms of distance and direction of ball travel for the work done in striking the ball, and the bat shapes hitherto employed have all restricted the centroid to a small area located on the striking surface corresponding quite closely to the location of the maximum mass.

The effect of impact of a ball against the bat to either side of the centroid is to turn the bat about its longitudinal axis so that a misdirected and weak hit results; impact of the ball at a position nearer the handle than the centroid results in the ball being lifted with a higher trajectory than desired, resulting in increased risk of the batsman being caught out; whilst impact of the ball at a position nearer the toe of the bat than the centroid will result in a lower trajectory than desired, and a shorter hit.

An object of the invention is to provide a construction of cricket bat which is improved as compared with the prior known conventional construction by the mass, and consequently the weight thereof, being so distributed as to provide a 'Sweet spot' whose area is considerably increased, so that the effective hitting area of the bat is correspondingly increased, allowing the batsman a greater margin of error.

With this object in view the present invention provides a cricket bat comprising a handle to which is connected a blade shaped to provide a front striking surface and a rear surface at the side opposed to the striking surface characterised in that the rear surface is formed with one or more depressions so disposed that the blade is of maximum thickness at or adjacent the periphery of the blade.

The invention will be described further, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein:-

Fig. 1 is a rear view of a cricket bat conforming to the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a side view of the cricket bat of

Fig. 1; and

Fig. 3 is an enlarged sectional view taken on the line 3-3 of Fig. 1.

The illustrated cricket bat conforming to the invention comprises an elongate handle 10 which is spliced into a blade 11 in the usual manner. The blade 11 has a striking surface 12 which is conventionally-formed, that is to say it is slightly convex with the degree of curvature increasing rapidly as sides 13 and 14 of the blade 11 are approached so that the face 12 merges into the sides 13 and 14 by respective abruptly rounded edges.

Rear surface 15 of the blade 11, however, differs substantially from the conventional shape wherein maximum thickness, mass and weight are concentrated along the plane of symmetry of the blade. In the illustrated bat, the rear surface 15 of the blade contains an elongate depression or recess 16 so shaped as to create a narrow rim 17 around the periphery of the rear surface 15 of the blade 11 which rim 17 may for example, be approximately half-an-inch to one-inch wide along the longitudinal edges of the blade and approximately one-inch to four-inches wide at toe 18 of the blade and shoulder 19 thereof. The blade 11 of the bat is, thus, thinnest towards the central region thereof and thickest around its periphery so that the mass and weight of the bat is concentrated at or near the periphery of the blade 11.

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The bat can, of course, be made of any material or combination of materials permitted by the regulations attaching to the game of cricket.

The provision of the depression or recess 16 and its surrounding rim 17 achieves, in the blade 11, a distribution of weight and mass which may be regarded as being the opposite of the conventional blade, that is to say instead of the weight and mass being concentrated largely behind the centroid, it is distributed round the rim 17 and towards the toe 18 and the shoulder 19 of the blade to provide a 'Sweet spot' whose area is considerably extended, thereby ensuring that the bat has a larger effective hitting area.

The invention is not confined to the precise details of the illustrated embodiment and variations may be made thereto. Thus, for example, the weight distribution of the blade 11 may be modified, if desired, by incorporation of a heavy material e.g. lead at appropriate locations. Furthermore, the basic shape of the surface of the recess 16 may vary to allow for the incorporation of strengthening ribs or cross members (not shown).

Furthermore, provided the configuration and arrangement thereof is such that the blade is of maximum thickness at or adjacent its periphery, there may be a plurality of recesses or depressions in the rear surface of the blade 11.

**WHAT WE CLAIM IS:**

1. A cricket bat comprising a handle to which is connected a blade shaped to provide a front striking surface and a rear surface at the side opposed to the striking surface characterised in that the rear surface is formed with one or more depressions so disposed that the blade is of maximum thickness at or adjacent the periphery of the blade.
2. A cricket bat as claimed in Claim 1 wherein a rim is defined around the periphery of the blade at the rear side thereof, by the depression or depressions.
3. A cricket bat as claimed in Claim 2 wherein the rim is relatively narrow where it extends along the longitudinal edges of the blade and is relatively wider at the toe and the shoulder of the blade.
4. A cricket bat substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and as illustrated in the accompanying drawing.

1391120 COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

1 SHEET

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of the Original on a reduced scale

